

their courageous battle, they helped open the eyes of many people about the urgent need to find a cure for this horrific disease before the national tidal wave hits our country in future years due to our aging population.

Much of what I learned about being an elected official I learned from Bill Proxmire. That is why I am proud to call myself a Proxmire Democrat. His legacy will endure, whether it is the call for greater fiscal responsibility with the people's money, or leveling the playing field in politics for people who work hard and play by the rules.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ellen and the entire Proxmire family. I hope they find some peace and comfort in the knowledge that Senator Proxmire touched many lives. He was loved by many, and he will be missed.

May God bless Senator Proxmire and take him into His care.

THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY IN IRAQ

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I feel honored this evening as we approach the midnight hour here in Washington to realize that it is the dawn of a new day in Iraq. The sun is coming up almost as we speak, and I raise my hand and my index finger in symbolic fashion to salute the 10.5 million people who went to the polls in that historic election on December 15.

Madam Speaker, listen to what some of the Iraqi people have had to say about how they feel about the vote that was cast yesterday. "This day is revenge for Saddam." Kurdish voter Chiman Saleh, whose two brothers were killed by Saddam's forces. The ink-stained finger after he voted.

"The time has come to build Iraq with our own hands and to use the great wealth that God has granted to Iraq, to rebuild Iraq so that we can turn our poverty into wealth and our misery into happiness." Prime minister al-Jaafari.

Finally, from the Associated Press, some good news: "So many Sunni Arabs voted that ballots ran out in some places. The strong participation by Sunnis," the backbone of the insurgency, Madam Speaker, "bolstered United States hopes that the election could produce a broad-based government capable of ending the daily suicide attacks and other violence." From the Associated Press. Good news indeed.

Madam Speaker, listen to what General George Casey, the Multinational Force Commanding General in Iraq,

said today: "The Iraqi people have had a great day. It is their third national poll this year: January 30th elections for the Transitional National Assembly, 8.5 million people voted; October 15th national referendum on the constitution, 10 million people voted on. December 15th elections for a permanent assembly, 10.5 to 11 million people voted, and many, many Sunnis. Voter turnout was high. We expect it to be at or above the October level. Turnout in the Anbar Province in western Iraq, the most violent part, the Sunni stronghold, is suspected to have increased fairly substantially over October. There was low violence across Iraq. We expect it to be at or below the October level. The Iraqi Security Forces performed wonderfully to maintain security at the polling sites. The high sentiment was set this morning when Iraqis swiftly repaired damage from an improvised explosive device at a polling place and that polling site was still open at 7 o'clock in the morning."

Listen to this, Madam Speaker, from General Casey. "Three years ago, Saddam Hussein was still tyrannizing the Iraqi people. The accomplishments of the Iraqis and the Coalition since then have been unprecedented, even in the face of a ruthless and a resilient insurgency. They include the transition to sovereignty, elections for a transitional government, a peaceful transition from the interim to the transitional government, the drafting and approving of the constitution, the building of Iraqi Security Forces to more than 200,000, and today, the elections for a permanent assembly."

Madam Speaker, as we close out, I just want to say that this is also a great day for those 2,175 soldiers, men and women, who have given their lives, 15,000 others who have been severely injured, and 30,000 or more innocent Iraqi people, many of them women and children, who have given their lives for this cause. This is a great day.

This gives some peace and comfort, I am sure, to the Brown family of Atlanta, who gave their son Tyler, a First Lieutenant, in this battle, as he was killed in action; and the Johnson family of Armuchee, Georgia, in my district, when Joe and Janet gave their precious son Justin.

At least some comfort will come to these families at this time of Christmas when everybody else is celebrating and they have a certain sadness in their heart that will never go away. They will know that their sons did not die in vain, that this is the success that they were fitting and dying for. God bless them, God bless the Commander-in-Chief, and God bless America.

RECALL DESIGNEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2005.

Hon. Karen Haas,
Clerk of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CLERK: Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 1, and also for purposes of such concurrent resolutions of the current Congress as may contemplate my designation of Members to act in similar circumstances, I hereby designate Representative BLUNT to act jointly with the Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, in the event of my death or inability, to notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, of any reassembly under any such concurrent resolution. In the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternative Members of the House listed in a letter placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purposes.

Sincerely,
J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that on December 15, 2005, the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule I.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5688. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Information Technology Equipment — Screening of Government Inventory [DFARS Case 2003-D054] received December 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5689. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Modifications [DFARS Case 2003-D023] received December 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5690. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Administration [DFARS Case 2003-D023] received December 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5691. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy,

Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Extraordinary Contractual Actions [DFARS Case 2003-D048] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5692. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Acquisition of Telecommunications Services [DFARS Case 2003-D055] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5692. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Acquisition of Telecommunications Services [DFARS Case 2003-D055] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

N O T I C E

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.